

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00898 271110Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00
OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 USIE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /129 W
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O R 271030Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9637
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, CE

SUBJ: UNCTAD THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON RUBBER FEB 27-MAR 3

REF: STATE 044156

1. EMBOFF WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE J.R.
SAMARANAYAKE UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27. AT THAT TIME, SAMAR-
ANAYAKE WAS GIVEN AN INFORMAL PAPER BASED ON REFTEL. ALTHOUGH
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SAMARANAYAKE NORMALLY ATTENDS ALL RUBBER MEETINGS, SRI LANKA
IS BEING REPRESENTED AT THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING BY TRADE
SECRETARY LAKSHMIN DE MEL; SAMARANAYAKE SAID HE WOULD SEND
SUBSTANCE OF PAPER TO DE MEL IN GENEVA.

2. SAMARANAYAKE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE WITH THE U.S. DECISION
TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A RUBBER STABILIZATION

AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT FROM SRI LANKA'S POINT OF VIEW SOME FORM OF SUPPLY RATIONALIZATION WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A BUFFER STOCK ALONE WOULD BE AN ADEQUATE INSTRUMENT FOR DEALING WITH POTENTIAL PRICE FLUCTUATIONS. ON THE TIMING OF NEGOTIATIONS, SAMARANAYAKE SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW MUCH PROGRESS WAS MADE THIS WEEK IN GENEVA. HE THOUGHT THE THREE-STAGE PROCESS SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. (PARA 3, REFTEL) WAS REASONABLE.

3. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION BEFORE THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, SECRETARY DE MEL TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOME PRODUCER COUNTRIES, HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED MALAYSIA, WERE NOT PUSHING VERY HARD FOR AN AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME SINCE WORLD RUBBER PRICES ARE RELATIVELY HIGH. SAMARANAYAKE, ON THE OTHER HAND, FELT PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS SHOULD TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT NOW RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL PRICES DECLINE.

4. COMMENT: SRI LANKAN OFFICIALS SEEM QUITE RELAXED ABOUT A STABILIZATION AGREEMENT ON RUBBER, AND, DESPITE SAMARANAYAKE'S POINT OF VIEW, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ANY TIME SOON.

WRIGGINS

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